

The Determination of Hesperidæ.

By EUGENE M. AARON.

It is with much pleasure that I have read the first instalment of Mr. J. B. Smith's novel and very instructive address to the Entom. Club of the A. A. A. S. The younger students, as well as some of us who have been in the field for some years, owe Mr. Smith a vote of thanks for the address, showing, as it does so clearly, where we can find willing specialists with capable collections to whom we can refer our undetermined specimens.

On page 109 Mr. Smith speaks as follows of my own collection :

"In the family *Hesperidæ* of the Rhopalocera, the collection of Mr. Eugene M. Aaron of Philadelphia is excellent. Mr. Aaron has spent much time and money to complete his collection in this family ; but owing to his numerous business engagements cannot unfortunately devote much time to his collection at present, *and cannot do much for seekers of information in this family.*"

The italics are mine ; and it is of the accuracy of the statement contained in this last clause of which I wish to write. When it was penned by Mr. Smith it was an exact statement of the facts of the case as they have existed for the past three years. Fortunately for my peace of mind, for my collections have been at all times in my thoughts, I have been able to make business arrangements during the past summer which will give me for the six months to come, a considerable amount of time to give to the study of the *Hesperidæ* and to the examination and determination of material from collectors of this puzzling family.

I have explained elsewhere (PAPILIO, Vol. IV, p. 171) the methods adopted by me in 1880 for the determination of all *Hesperidæ*, and in fact all Rhopalocera from America north of the Isthmus of Panama. These methods are still pursued by me, and at this writing, my Edwards' and Kirby's Catalogues are complete so far as it is possible to make them from the Zoölogical Records and from the unequalled libraries of the American Entomological Society and The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. In print or in MS. copy I have the original description of every species of the Rhopalocera in America north of Mexico, and in the *Hesperidæ* north of the Isthmus. For ready reference I have had the leading writings of Hübner, Geyer, Felder, La Sagra, Boisduval, Herrick-Schäffer, Poey, Speyer, Mabille, Oberthür, Staudinger, et al., carefully translated into English and these MSS. brought together in a bound form and copiously indexed. All corre-

spondence from specialists and MS. information relative to habits and geographical distribution are also gathered together in this manner and indexed.

Many of the more obscure species have the labels of determination affixed by such students or collectors as Edwards, Strecker, Morrison, et al., and in the *Hesperidæ* a majority of the species are represented by series of from 12 to 50 or more specimens. In this family only the genus *Pamphila* has more than one absentee in the collection. Beginning with the genus *Amblyscirtes*, as arranged in Edward's Catalogue of 1884, *Eudamus Electra*, Lintn., and *Erycides Sanguinea*, Scud., are the only missing species. In the four genera preceeding *Pamphila* all the species are represented. In the *Lycænidaæ* and *Erycinidæ*, catalogued as above, the collection is nearly as full; the latter family is complete. These data are given to illustrate the working condition and my literary material.

If anything in the above shall encourage any collector with material, the determination of which is not satisfactory to him, to entrust me therewith for the purposes of identification and study I shall be amply repaid by the benefits of the latter and shall do my best to see that he is promptly benefited by the former.

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Book Notice.

“*Insect Life*, Vol. I, No. 1. U. S. Dept. of Entomology. Periodical Bulletin, July, 1888. Devoted to the economy and life habits of Insects, especially in their relations to Agriculture, and edited by the Entomologist and his Assistants, with the sanction of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Washington, D. C.”

The above pretty fully explains the prospectus of a new Journal devoted to Entomology and issued by the Entomological Department at Washington. Under the personal supervision of Dr. Riley it cannot fail to be well edited; and giving more or less the details of the Department experiments and researches, it cannot fail to be of great and lasting value.

We have only one exception to note. Having the name “*Insect Life*” given it, an impression might be given that it is to be a scientific Journal in the ordinary sense of the term, and not what it professes and aims to be a “periodical Bulletin”; this impression is strengthened by the fact that in the very first number there are given descriptions of new species of insects whose types are entirely out of the possession of the